Jim rang me up that afternoon and said ‘I’m bringing the boys to see you, Dil. I’m taking them to see Mary for the last time. I’ve put clean shirts on them. They’ve got on their best clothes, their school ties. Their fingernails are clean. So are their teeth. Would you look them over for me? If they pass inspection with you, they’re alright.’ – Auntie Dil

Jim never ever said in so many words ‘I love you.’ I'd sometimes say, ‘do you love me?’ and he'd say, ‘well you know I do. We're still together, aren't we?’ and I'd say ‘no, just tell me! Just say it!’ ‘No. I can't. I don't do that.’ Mary was very unable to show her emotions. The very day that she died, when he kissed her on the cheek, she looked at him and said ‘I love you.’ Jim said that that was the only time she ever said it. He said ‘I never said it to her.’ Strange isn't it? So sad. – Angie McCartney

Jim McCartney…was beside himself with grief; all he wanted to do, he would tell anyone around him, was to join his wife on the other side. – Chris Salewitch

My mother’s death broke my dad up. That was the worst thing for me, hearing my dad cry. I’d never heard him cry before. It was a terrible blow to the family. You grow up real quick . . . . It shakes your faith in everything. – Paul McCartney, 1995.

The boys went to stay with Jim’s brother Joe and his wife Joan while friends and relatives tried to calm their distraught father. – Barry Miles, 1997

Paul and Michael were taken…to stay with their Auntie Jin…After [Auntie Jin] had switched out the light, the boys would cry themselves to sleep – Chris Salewitch

After Mary’s death, Paul and Michael were sent to live with [relatives] for two months, so as to let their father grieve in private. – The Paul McCartney Project

‘Paul used to lock himself in the toilet and play the guitar’ — Auntie Dil. It was the only place he could disengage himself from the tragedy. Jim, who was himself heartbroken and threatening suicide, had nothing left in reserve for Paul. – Bob Spitz

I learned to put a shell around me. – Paul McCartney

Paul was far more affected by Mum’s death than any of us imagined. His very character seemed to change and for a while he seemed like a hermit. He wasn’t very nice to live with at this period, I remember. He became completely wrapped up in himself and didn’t want people breaking in on his life. – Mike McCartney 1965

Paul was very much the diplomat. You would never get a quick answer off Paul. He would always think about what was the right answer; not what the answer should've been, but perhaps what you wanted to hear. – Colin Hanton, 2013

Paul had a bad break. His mother had died. He did go through a bit of a rough patch then. I think it shattered him a lot. Maybe it made him turn to other things, like practicing his guitar and getting away from the school environment, which was very academic. But his mother's death certainly didn't have the effect of making him become noticeably difficult. I vividly remember on the day it happened, him coming into the class in room 32 and going to his desk, which always used to be under a window. He was still very nice, very polite, and always softly spoken. – Dusty Durband

"We'd get a big sheet of paper and use, say, a broom –dip it in some paint, splash it on and try to make something of it. I remember Paul created a piece which was a bit like The Scream –like somebody in agony, asking for help." Ian James, 2006

'I miss her. The house feels empty,' Paul said. He didn't say much more than that, but at times he looked lost and quite vulnerable. It was round about then that you would often see him bicycling off to the woods and fields or along the shore with binoculars to watch birds for hours on his own. Music helped Paul compensate for his loss, and he threw himself into it. – Tony Bramwell

To lose your mum at fourteen is, you know, not easy. So, erm, it was just very difficult for a few years just trying to come to terms with it. But then I found music. And John. – Paul McCartney, 2016

Howard Stern: were you considered a prodigy I mean when you at fifteen sit down and write–
Paul: No. No way! Nobody was remotely interested in this idea of I wrote songs. Until I met John. And it was like. Ach! Someone's interested at last! – 2018

I think Paul was very brave putting up with Stuart for so long. – Astrid Kircher 1994

It used to frighten me that someone could be so nice all the time, which was silly . . . . It's silly to be wary of nice people. – Astrid Kircher, 1968

"Paul was very hard to dislike. Even in his teens there was something about him, a sort of charisma that used to strike people when they met him for the first time. And he always knew exactly where he was going, even though people often used to tell him they would never make it. Paul was always around our house. He carried on going to see my mum long after they were famous and long after I'd got married. He'd escape

back to our place and eat cheese sandwiches and drink tea, talking all night. He'd idolised his own mother. It was like losing a limb when she died, and he'd had to rebuild himself. He felt he had a responsibility to his mother's memory, to say to her 'I'm still me'. He had to show her he was a survivor. He couldn't let his mum or his dad or brother see him going to pieces. He had to block her death out as a matter of self-preservation. He hadn't been able to put any pressure on his dad - in fact, his dad, for all his exuberance, was leaning on him. So Paul had to prove that he was strong. I never heard him say a bad word about anyone. [Stuart's death was] another ending in the life of someone near in spirit to him. Why should he have to prove he's very upset? You live with yourself. Paul was so determined, with a total belief in himself to an extent that some would think he was self-centered and in love with himself. But he wasn't - it was just that he wasn't ordinary, and knew that he wasn't. – Iris Caldwell, 1986

John wouldn't do anything he didn't want to do, but Paul even in those early days could've earned a living in public relations. He would work his back-side off in potentially explosive situations in order to keep things on an even keel, unless of course he was the instigator, which was rare. – Cynthia Lennon, 1978

[Paul] is very strong not to hear what he doesn't want to hear and when he doesn't want to hear, he closes up, sits on a chair, crosses his legs and pretends to read the newspaper with a deliberately impassive look. Paul is endowed with an immense talent, he hides a great inner tenderness and a formidable sensitivity under angry outside. He has a beautiful smile and a formidable enthusiasm that he uses, not to be laughed at, but because he knows that these are assets that can make people around him happy. Moreover, and this is essential to me, he shows great loyalty to the Beatles and their organization. Therefore, I do not take into account his mood swings and hold him in high esteem. I would not want to lose his friendship under any circumstances." – Brian Epstein, 1964

I mean, I'm usually the one Eppy asks to set John right, but what with ringin' up that fan who was in the hospital from the hit 'n run accident - Cheryl, y'know - 'n then ringin' those three girls who were hurt when the lobby crashed in, I had more serious things to take care of, really. – Paul McCartney, 1964

[the Asher's house] was at least a home, and I'd sorely missed that . . . since my mum had died six or seven years before . . . . It was like a story, like a novel I was living in." – Paul McCartney, 2021

I moved out and into Jane's house. Main reason, her mum was a *real* mum. – Paul McCartney, 2013

Ruth and I would burst into tears and hug each other when [a song that reminded them of a special sweet moment from their past would come on the radio] and Jim used to say ‘oh you two, your bladders too near your eyes’. – Angie McCartney

“Jim was probably the Beatles’ biggest fan,” recalls Bill Harry, who frequently ran into Paul’s father on his rounds through the city. “He was so proud of what was happening,” remembers Shelagh Johnson, a local girl and, later, director of the Beatles Museum. – Liverpool Locals

When we first started, I used to get really very nervous. I'd look at the audience and I'd think, ‘they all hate me. I've got to do something good to make them like me. You know, that was where my nerves came from, I'd think like, ‘they're all looking at me like ‘what's he got?’ – Paul McCartney, 2018

Jim asked us if we thought Paul had a good voice, and in a dreamy way we said 'Oh YES!' Jim thought, then said, 'Well, he hasn’t got a great voice but he does sing with feeling'.” – Dierdre Mahon

I suppose my best memories are when [George Martin] and I were doing arrangements together for one of my songs and I would go around to his house and I would play him my song and we would work it out together . . . and it was great fun, cause he was a fun guy, and it was also very educational for me . . . and you know, just being around at his house, and hanging out with him intimately doing this work was a great thing. – Paul McCartney, 2016

When we did it [scored yesterday] Paul scribbled on it at the top here, ‘by Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Martin Esquire, and Mozart.’ – George Martin

"Looking back on it now, I can say, 'Yes, okay, in the studio I could be overbearing.’ Because I wanted to get it right! I heard tapes recently of me counting in 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand’, which was our first number one in the States, and I’m being pretty bossy: 'Sssh, Sssh! Clean beginning, c'mon, everyone. One, two. No, c'mon, get it right!’ and I can see how that could get on your nerves.” – Paul McCartney 1997

McCartney says “we hear you're having a bad day,” and I said, “I'm having a bad day,” and he says, “well, if there's anything that we can do or our organization can do just let us know. And I thought that was really cool because he validated what I was doing and that's all you have to do in this life is to validate the other person and then the other person will go to the end of the world for you. And at that point I would've gone to the

end of the world for them. – Bob Eubanks (promoted the Beatles concert at the Hollywood Bowl)

[John] could be quite caustic and witty, but once you got to know him he had this lovely warm character. I was more the opposite: pretty easygoing and friendly, but I could be tough when needed. – Paul McCartney

There were big fallings out with the Beatles, but really, John was the only person who could say to Paul ‘That’s not good enough, we’ve got to get that better’ or ‘I don’t like that, it’s crap’, he could say that and Paul would listen to him. If I said that to Paul he’d take my head off [laughs], and quite rightly, you know, he’s got a great brain. – Eric Stewart, 2017

"[Paul’s aunt] Milly told us she had not long arrived [in Australia] and was tired and exhausted from her journey. But they had the telly on in the next room and she was half watching the screen when suddenly this placard came up. She was flabbergasted, as at this stage we were not as tech saturated as we are now. It was a real link between our two hemispheres." – Angie McCartney, 2013

That was another of the interesting things. I think that I’ve got a certain personality and if I give charity I don’t like to shout about it. If I get into avant-garde stuff, I don’t particularly shout about that either. I just get on with it . . . . I used to sit in a basement in Montagu Square with William Burroughs and a couple of gay guys he knew from Morocco and that Marianne Faithfull-John Dunbar crowd doing little tapes, crazy stuff with guitar and cello. But it didn’t occur to me in the next NME interview I did to rave

about William Burroughs. Maybe it would have been good for me to do that. – Paul McCartney, 1986

Yoko met me before she met John. She turned up for a charity thing, she wanted manuscripts, any spare lyric sheets you had around. Ours tended to be on the backs of envelopes and to tell you the truth I didn't want to give her any. They were very precious to me and the cause didn't seem so great. – Paul McCartney, 1986

John said, "we've fucking had it."
George said, "Without Brian, we're dead."
Paul said, "No, we're not. We just have to get on with it. We'll have to delegate." – Derek Taylor

[Jim] climbed upstairs and got Paul out of bed to talk about his failed film. It wouldn't happen these days. You wouldn't get so close to the stars.
— Ray Connolly

Paul was [often] around about my place, playing piano and having tea. – George Martin.

His father missed him so, and begged me to make him telephone more often …. He sang and played for his father, a salty old man who seemed tremendously sensitive …. [Paul] had a hard time staying sober up there …. The trip was full of pain. He was drunk as hell, playing the piano at a party given around him in a shabby little house. He slipped away to a pub one of his cousins owned without my seeing. His cousin came to me sweating bullets. "You had better fetch your fella!" . . . . He was backed up against the mirror behind the bar . . . a bewildered crowd of cousins surrounding him. "You don't treat me like I'm me. You treat me like I was him and I'm not him, you know, I'm just me!" – Francie Schwartz, 1972

The reason I got bored during the last part of the Beatles era was we didn't perform to audiences. – Paul McCartney, 1974

When Linda first came over from America I was on the front cover of the Observer, I think it was, and someone sent it round to me and I was quite chuffed to be on there. I had it pinned on the wall or somethin', and she said, 'GOD,' and she couldn't believe I'd actually noticed I was on the cover. She said 'You don't seriously get into all that, do you?' And I said, 'Yeah, I'm sorry but I do. I'm not great like you thought I was. I'm just like…Christ, I'm so frigging ordinary, it's terrifying.'" – Paul McCartney 1978

I was beginning to be too definite, and George and Ringo turned around and said, ‘Look, piss off, we’re grown-ups and we can do it without you fine.’ People like me who don’t realise when they’re being very overbearing, it comes as a great surprise to be told. So I completely clammed up and backed off: right, ‘OK, they’re right, I’m a turd.’ So a day or so went by and the session started to flag a bit and so eventually Ringo turned round to me and said, ‘Come on… produce’, – Paul McCartney 1986

I remember very early on apologising because I was so tired, I said, ‘I’m really tired, I’m sorry.’ [Linda] said, ‘It’s allowed.’ I remember thinking, Fucking hell! That was a mind-blower. I’d never been with anyone who'd thought like that: ‘It’s allowed.’ And it was quite patently clear that it was allowed to be tired. I think I’d trained myself never to appear tired. – Paul McCartney 1997

Paul rang me up one day and said, ‘d’you know what's happened to let it be?’ ‘no.’ He said ‘they've taken it to America and they've given it to Phil Spector and he's been doing all the things that John said he wouldn't do and they've put heavenly choirs and all sorts of soupy strings on it. On my songs.’ He was furious. So was I. And I said [to Apple] ‘let's have a compromise. Why don't you say ‘produced by George Martin, overproduced by Phil Spector.’ – George Martin, 1993

Paul is the greatest bass guitar player in the world. He is also very determined. He goes on and on to see if he can get his own way. While this may be a virtue, it did mean that musical disagreements inevitably rose from time to time. But such disagreements contributed to really great products.’ – Ringo Starr, 1971

I was very scared. I didn’t want to give up, but it was a mess, it was unreal, and I had to handle this all by myself. There was no choice. I had to try. We had two children, we’d just been married a year, and my husband didn’t want to get out of bed. He was drinking too much. He would tell me he felt useless. I knew he was torturing himself, blaming himself for the break-up, and I was sure that he could get beyond it, but if he didn’t believe in himself, what could I do? I could only try, that’s all I could do. Let me tell you, my hands were full. [Danny Feilds’ addition here.] He even tried heroin, snorting a bit some hipster friend had handed to him months, maybe years, earlier. “To escape. To be numb,” he said. It didn’t do anything for him, it didn’t make anything better. “I was a zombie.” [back to Linda] Here I am living on a stone floor, carrying water in buckets, and I’m married to a drunk who won’t take a bath” – Linda McCartney, late 90s

Suddenly I felt my usefulness had gone. I didn't have a job and I was worthless. I hid in Scotland for months. I let myself go. I grew a beard and started drinking heavily and

sniffing heroin. I'd stay in bed all day, sometimes waking up at three pm and thinking: there's no point getting up now – Paul McCartney 1989

I thought, “This is crazy, no one likes me enough to just let me go, give me my little bit of the proceeds and let me split off.” – Paul 1974

Paul thought, 'I've got to do it, either I give up and cut my throat or get my magic back.' – Linda McCartney

Paul is very much a teamwork person. He doesn't like working just on his own. He still gets nervous. He likes working with people, bouncing off people and having them bounce off him. He likes helping people. – Linda McCartney, 1970s

I don't think [John] felt any more than I did. He was just better at translating it. – Paul McCartney, 2025

I just felt powerless. You know how something like that can just drain all your energy. But when I got up on a horse, I felt. Oh, I'm kind of in command here. And it made – it was very empowering. – Paul McCartney, 2020

Linda had this wonderful free attitude. She used to hate the word ‘compromise’ and she hated the word ‘cope’, she never really had to deal with those words and she had been a very free spirit all her life. – Paul McCartney 1997

After the Beatles, none of us wanted to work with George [Martin], it wasn’t that we didn’t want to be produced by him, it was just so the critics wouldn’t say ‘oh, he’s trying to do a beatles thing,’ but the attraction with working with George was I like him very much as a producer, I mean he really knows what he’s doing, and just cause I love him anyway. – Paul McCartney

Paul in turn wanted to make a demo [of Live and Let Die] so he asked me to orchestrate it in a very dramatic/Bond way - you don't usually get to make a demo with a full orchestra, but that's what we did. [the bond producer’s reaction was] "Great score you did there George. Now who do you think we're going to get to sing it? Aretha Franklin?" I then realised I had to diplomatically tell him that if he didn't use Paul's version then he wouldn't get the song. – George Martin

My best work is backstage where he's bursting through the door after a show, lying down exhausted, sweating. Linda told me that he'd never let anyone photograph him like that. – Harry Benson, 1976

He came to the phone and I said, 'I'm sorry, son, it just happened.' He sounded so shocked, he sort of yelled, 'Are you sure?' and I said I was, and I'd call him later. He was absolutely and totally in shock. We'd all expected it, but it's always a shock, you know. We talked later about the funeral and about him coming to Liverpool. They were going to Paris to start the tour and he asked me what I thought. I said, 'If you throw everything away and come up here for the funeral, it would just be a circus. It won't bring your Dad back, and he was always so proud of you and your music, you go on with what it is you're born to do.' – Angie McCartney

It was no coincidence that Paul was on the Continent at the time. Like Dad, Paul would never face that sort of thing. As Dad would say, 'It's just the way you're made, Son.' – Mike McCartney

Q: the line that stays with me was Stella talking about what a happy, magical time [her childhood] was for her.
A: well, that's what we were tryna do. You know, Linda and I genuinely loved our kids. And so, no matter what was going on, they were the focus. And to hear that they remember their childhood with happiness is . . . that's the best thing. It's the best reward you can get as a parent. To hear that you did okay. – Paul McCartney, 2026.

He likes to stay positive, because if he gets negative he gets really negative, and he knows it, so he tries to rise above these things, and not have other people reminding him of too many negative things, or hurtful things, because of who he is. He has to be out there looking like he's Paul McCartney, happy-go-lucky, and not bothering the world with his problems. – Denny Laine, 2010

Fab Macca, thumbs aloft, wacky… to me that's just being nice… that's just ordinary. I'm not going to carry any can for that kind of shit, for me that was OK… Sticking my thumb up isn't some armour against the fans, it's just a perfectly straightforward way of being friendly with people. – Paul McCartney, 1986

It's true. You say that I loved him, but as 16-year-old and 17-year-old Liverpool kids, you couldn't say that – it just wasn't done. So I never did. I never really said, 'You know, I love you man'. I never really got round to it. So now, it is great to just realise how much I love this man. – Paul McCartney, 2021

The really strange thing was that I went to work that morning somehow knowing Paul would ultimately show up — despite what had happened. Of course, from the point of view of his Liverpool upbringing, the best way to deal with something like that is to keep right on doing what you'd normally do. It helps to take your mind off it — being with friends, I suppose, even though it did occur to me that he might have just as easily rung up and cancelled the session. I remember the first thing he said to me was, "I just don't know what to think." He was obviously physically shaken, and even at the best of times wasn't really too articulate when it came to expressing how he felt about things.
After one of the takes Paul and I were just hanging out, leaning up against AIR [Studio]'s huge floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Oxford Circus, when I happened to notice this dark green truck going by that said LENNON FURNISHINGS or something like that. "Oh God, look at that," I said, and he just sort of broke down, you know? "I'll tell you one thing, man," he said, "I'll never fall out with anyone again in my life for that amount of time and face the possibility of them dying before I get a chance to square it with them."
After that I never consciously mentioned anything about it. If he wanted to talk about it he did, and if he didn't, well, he didn't. Everybody in the world was very hurt by John's death, but especially Paul McCartney – Denny Laine 1991

The phone rang. Joe Reddington picked up. 'Can I speak to Paul McCartney?' asked a woman.
'He's busy at the moment. Who's calling?'
'It's Yoko.' Joe knew instinctively it really was John's widow, rather than a hoax. He told everybody to clear the room. 'And [Paul] took the call. I just closed the door and he was crying—he'd lost his best friend.' – Denny Laine, 2010

Er I was very shocked, you know. It's terrible news. I got a phonecall from a friend of mine. I don't know yet. Erm, I was just listening to some stuff, I just didn't want to sit at home. Well cause I didn't feel like it. This morning sometime. Yeah. It's a drag, isn't it? Okay, cheers. – Paul McCartney, 1980.

I don't dwell on what people say about me. I actually dwell more on what people say about Paul, for some reason. Maybe it's because he can't handle it."
— Linda McCartney, 1984,

I feel as though I have to justify living, you know, which is a bit of a piss-off. I don't really want to have to sit around and justify myself; it's a bit humiliating. – Paul McCartney, 1986

P: We had all that craziness, but if someone took one of your wedding photos and put 'funeral' on it, as he did on that manuscript, you'd tend to feel a bit sorry for the guy. I'll tell you what, if I'd

ever done that to him, he would've just hit the roof. But I just sat through it all like mild-mannered Clark Kent.
Q: When did you actually get a perspective on it?
P: I still haven't. It's still inside me. John was lucky. He got all his hurt out. I'm a different sort of a personality. There's still a lot inside me that's trying to work it out. – 1986

I think why some politicians are so successful is that they have a little bleeper box in their heads and before they say something they run things through and they can see it as a headline. If it doesn't look good they edit it. I have that sometimes, but in moments like that all my bleepers go out the window. – Paul McCartney, 1986

I get dreams with John in, and my Dad. It's very nice because you meet them again. It's wondrous, it's like magic. – Paul McCartney, 1986

Heather Mills: I love him!
Audience: Aw!
Pause
Paul: On national telly?!

"It hit us all hard, but [the kids] have been very strong and very helpful. We've cried a lot together. None of us has held that back. We pretty much still cry, daily. – Paul McCartney, 1999

I am deeply saddened to hear the news of the passing of dear George Martin. I have so many wonderful memories of this great man that will be with me forever. He was a true gentleman and like a second father to me. . . . More than just a producer, he was a mentor and, in many ways, a second father . . . . a truly great man who left an indelible mark on my soul. – Pieces of several quotes from Paul McCarntey in response to the death of George Martin, 2016

I'd never been in my old house since I left. I'd take [people] past this old house I used to live in, but I never used to go in cause I'd think 'it's gonna be so disappointing, it's gonna be scary, or something. I thought, 'just leave it. Don't go in, you know, that's easy.' So I would sit outside the house. – Paul McCartney, 2020

"In fact, years later, James, our kid's son. He's a great musician and singer. He was up and said 'Uncle Mike, can I see your's and dad's old house?' So I took him. – Mike McCartney, 2016

"I was always a little apprehensive about going back. I didn't know . . . whether I would get bad memories or whatever. – Paul McCartney, 2018

I think you're always questioning and thinking, “I could do this better.” . . . . Well the confidence was a shield. I learned that early on. If you have difficulties in your life, you can kind of go two ways. You can just lie down and give up or you can put a shield up and you can guard yourself from the world in that way. – Paul McCartney, 2020

And I suddenly sort of realized at one point ‘wait a minute. They've all paid to come and see me, so they probably like me.’ Once I realized that they probably like me, I really relaxed. So yeah, I’m quite relaxed now, so even if I do sort of new stuff or try a trick, I’m relaxed enough to do it. What I started doing a couple of years ago . . . I would feel this energy coming off [the audience] and it’d be like ‘ah god, this is so great!’ So I started off then saying, ‘just a minute. You know what, this is all so cool. I’m gonna take a minute to take all of this in for myself. And then I’ll walk off the microphone and just sort of stand there. And they all love it. It’s a great thing with the audience. I just think ‘jesus, it’s a little bit flash of me just not doing anything’ but that comes with the confidence of what I said, thinking, ‘they’ve come to see you.’ – Paul McCartney

I mean beyond just the satisfaction of creating a piece of art . . . . What is it you're looking for? You're looking for approval or you're looking for money. You're looking to get out of your circumstances and rise in the world but.

“If there’s ever a problem, I’m very happy to be the guy they come to. So, that’s largely the thing of being a dad. You’re just there to help, and I suppose have fun with . . . . I try to be helpful as a husband, too. If there’s a problem, I like to be the guy that will lend some strength to it. I’m always very happy to be the person Nancy relies on, and to be her strength when she goes through tough times. I am very proud, in fact, to be “The Guy” there.” – Paul McCartney, 2022